



## Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Andy Neumann, Chair & Members  
House Senior Health, Retirement and Security Committee

FROM: Felicia Turrentine Wasson, Associate State Director-Government Affairs

DATE: September 9, 2009

RE: HB 5190

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AARP appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 5190. We appreciate the efforts of the sponsors of the bill and the personal stories that have shaped the necessity of this proposed legislation. As the nation's largest membership organization to represent the interests of those over age 50, we take great interest in the bill and are pleased to offer our support today with the following caveats:

We would like to offer suggestions for small changes that we think would make the bill more beneficial to the citizens of Michigan:

1. **"Missing Senior" definition.** AARP believes that the definition of "missing senior" should be changed to "missing vulnerable adult." In this instance, any vulnerable individual who is away from their home will be able to be protected and reported to the proper authorities.
2. **Definition of medical condition** – AARP believes that the implication of a diagnosed medical condition referenced in 2b line 4 would be stronger if it included the following language:

*An individual has been adjudicated by a court to be incapable of managing his or her own personal affairs, such as through a guardianship proceeding or has a documented diagnosis of mental illness, injury or condition that causes the individual to be incapable of making personal care decisions.*

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would be happy to work with the sponsor to include these changes which we believe will protect the privacy, dignity, independence and autonomy of the subject of the alert.